

February 14, 2013

Senators Harp and Kane and Representatives Walker and Miner  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senators Harp and Kane and Representatives Walker and Miner,

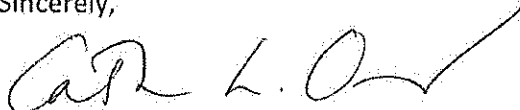
I write in support of our ally, the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Vision 2020, a national initiative of Drexel University College of Medicine, is a coalition of organizations and individuals united in their commitment to achieve women's economic and social equality. We are advancing an overdue national conversation about the value of women's equality to benefit all Americans.

It is tempting to believe that in the year 2013, women have reached equality with men. At Vision 2020 we know that is hardly the case. Women hold on average 18 percent of senior leadership positions across the professions. We believe that shared leadership among women and men will unleash a new dimension of American excellence.

Approximately three years ago, we became acquainted with the exceptional work of the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. As one of the leading organizations providing information to policy leaders, business and nonprofit communities and Connecticut citizens, PCSW enjoys a statewide and national reputation for excellence. This past September, Vision 2020 Connecticut Delegates Carolyn Mazure, Jo Dutcher and Nandini Sharma worked closely with PCSW and its multi-talented Executive Director Teresa Younger, to hold a bipartisan state-wide conference entitled, "Be the Change You Wish to See." The conference was an overwhelming success, attracting capacity crowds in Hartford on a Saturday in September.

The work PCSW accomplishes is important and powerful and will continue to be vital as we try to close the equality gaps between women and men in Connecticut and across the country.

Sincerely,



Catherine L. Ormerod  
Director of National Programs and Partnerships

**Vision 2020 National Advisors**

**Laurel G. Bellows, Esq.**  
President, American Bar Association

**Johnnetta B. Cole, PhD**  
President Emerita of Spelman College and  
Bennett College for Women

**Lynn Laverty Eisenhans**  
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**Kathleen Hall Jamieson**  
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**Eileen C. McDonnell**  
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